

# EXHIBIT 1

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW**

IN RE: Michael Collins  
REVIEW No.: 11-4518  
DATE: March 9, 2011  
LOCATION: OCE  
425 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20515  
TIME: 3:05 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. (approximate)  
PARTICIPANTS: Kedric L. Payne  
Paul J. Solis

**SUMMARY:** Michael Collins is the Chief of Staff for Representative John Lewis of the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Georgia. The OCE requested an interview with Mr. Collins on March 9, 2011, and he consented to an interview. Mr. Collins (the “witness”) made the following statements in response to our questioning:

1. The witness was given an 18 U.S.C. § 1001 warning and consented to an interview. He signed a written acknowledgement of the warning, which will be placed in the case file in this review.
2. The witness has been the Chief of Staff and Floor Assistant for Representative John Lewis for approximately thirteen years.
3. The witness did not work for any other congressional office prior to his employment with Representative Lewis.
4. As a Floor Assistant, he is responsible for supporting the whip operations for Representative Lewis, who serves as the Democratic Chief Deputy Whip.
5. As Chief of Staff, he is the senior chief policy advisor for Representative Lewis. The witness has various duties, including the hiring, firing, promoting, and training of the office staff. The witness also has payroll responsibilities for the office. He prepares staff payroll documents and submits them to the House payroll office.
6. The witness arranges ethics training from the Committee on Ethics (“COE”) for office staff. The witness provides ethics requirements from the COE to office staff and offers office staff personalized ethics briefings from COE staff. The witness also mentions the

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outside earned income limit to staff but does not discuss it in detail because only the witness approached the limit.

7. The witness has worked for Representative Lewis' congressional campaign committee (the "campaign") for approximately thirteen years. The witness stated that under the house rules, he assumes that his position and title at the campaign should be listed as "Agent to the campaign." The witness also provides consulting services to the campaign.
8. His duties for the campaign include overseeing all operations, hiring staff, paying bills, handling invoices and receipts. He also writes payroll checks for campaign staff. In the memo section of the checks, he writes "salary."
9. The witness stated that Representative Lewis must approve any campaign expenditures. No one else is involved in approving campaign expenditures besides Representative Lewis and the witness.
10. The witness explained that the campaign hires a variable number of staff each election cycle. During the 2009/2010 election cycle, there were approximately three fulltime employees on the campaign payroll. These three staffers were employed with Representative Lewis' congressional office. The witness explained that he is responsible for paying the staffers from the campaign account; however, he has no role processing tax forms for staffers.
11. The campaign employs Vickie Winpisinger as an accountant for the campaign. As part of her duties for the campaign, she prepares reports for the Federal Election Commission ("FEC"). Before Ms. Winpisinger files reports with the FEC, the witness reviews the reports for errors and discrepancies.
12. The witness told the OCE that he has been aware of the outside earned income limit throughout his thirteen year employment with the House of Representatives.
13. In 2009, he was aware that there was a limit on outside earned income, but he did not know that he was near the limit or that a possible infraction occurred until the OCE contacted him.
14. Following the initiation of this review, the witness contacted the COE and COE staff advised him to amend his 2009 financial disclosure statement. He has not amended the financial disclosure statement at the time of the interview.
15. The OCE asked the witness about a letter from Ms. Winpisinger to him, dated March 2, 2011 (Camp\_012), indicating that the campaign paid him \$27,700 in 2009. He was also asked about the 2009 Form 1099 that the campaign issued to him (MC\_0016), which indicates that the campaign paid him \$27,000.

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16. In response, the witness stated that he is not sure why the two documents have a \$700 difference in the amount that the campaign paid him. He believes that he received a \$700 payment in February 2009 that was a reimbursement for campaign storage costs and not part of his salary.<sup>1</sup> He stated that sometimes reimbursements are paid as part of an employee's salary.
17. When asked why he did not report any income from the campaign on his 2009 financial disclosure statement, the witness stated that it was "negligence" and he thought that money from the campaign did not have to be reported. He considered the money from the campaign to be a bonus and not a salary. He did not seek advice from anyone on this issue.
18. The witness received a salary from the campaign for all thirteen years of his employment. The money is paid to him at the discretion of Representative Lewis. His salary changes each year. In 2009, the campaign paid the witness the largest amount to date.
19. The witness told the OCE that during his thirteen years of employment with the campaign, he does not think that he reported the campaign income on his financial disclosure statement.
20. The OCE asked the witness about his 2009 Form 1040 Federal Income Tax Return (MC-0007-0014). He stated that he did not report the income from the campaign to the Internal Revenue Service for the same reason that he did not report it on his financial disclosure statement, *i.e.*, it was not reportable income.
21. The witness told the OCE that during his thirteen years of employment with the campaign, he does not think that he reported the campaign income on his federal income tax returns.
22. Since the initiation of this review, he has talked to his tax preparer about correcting the tax filing, but he has not attempted to correct the form at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> On March 10, 2011, the day after the interview, the witness called the OCE and explained that the \$700 payment dated February 1, 2009 was not part of his salary. The payment was for two staffers who assisted with moving storage for the campaign. The witness cashed the \$700 check written to him and paid each staffer \$350 for the work. The witness alluded to an email from him to Ms. Winpisinger, dated February 27, 2009, where he writes the following in response to her question about a \$700 check payable to the witness: "This was for consultants who moved campaign storage . . . Two individuals both were paid 350. I have invoices that both signed." (Camp\_004).

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This memorandum was prepared on March 10, 2011, based on the notes that the OCE staff prepared during the interview with the witness on March 9, 2011. I certify that this memorandum contains all pertinent matter discussed with the witness on March 10, 2011.

Kedric L. Payne  
Investigative Counsel

# **EXHIBIT 2**

☐ VOID ☐ CORRECTED

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, province or state, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no. John Lewis for Congress 2015 Wallace Road Atlanta, GA 30331 [REDACTED]		1 Rents \$	OMB No. 1545-0115 <b>2013</b> Form 1099-MISC	<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>
		2 Royalties \$	<b>Copy C For Payer</b>	
		3 Other income \$ 26500.00		
PAYER'S federal identification number [REDACTED]	RECIPIENT'S identification number [REDACTED]	5 Fishing boat proceeds \$		6 Medical and health care payments \$
RECIPIENT'S name Michael Collins		7 Nonemployee compensation \$	8 Substitute payments in lieu of dividends or interest \$	
Street address (including apt. no.) [REDACTED]		9 Payer made direct sales of 65,000 or more of consumer products to a buyer (recipient) for resale <input type="checkbox"/>	10 Crop insurance proceeds \$	
City or town, province or state, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code [REDACTED]		11 Foreign tax paid \$	12 Foreign country or U.S. possession \$	
Account number (see instructions) [REDACTED]	2nd TIN not <input type="checkbox"/>	13 Excess golden parachute payments \$	14 Gross proceeds paid to an attorney \$	
15a Section 409A deferrals \$	15b Section 409A income \$	16 State tax withheld \$	17 State/Payer's state no. \$	
		18 State income \$		

Form 1099-MISC

www.irs.gov/form1099misc

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

☐ CORRECTED (if checked)

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.  John Lewis for Congress 2015 Wallace Road Atlanta, GA 30331 [REDACTED]		1 Rents \$	OMB No. 1545-0115  <b>2014</b>  Form 1099-MISC		Miscellaneous Income
		2 Royalties \$			
		3 Other income \$	4 Federal income tax withheld \$		
PAYER'S federal identification number [REDACTED]	RECIPIENT'S identification number [REDACTED]	5 Fishing boat proceeds \$	6 Medical and health care payments \$	Copy B For Recipient  This is important tax information and is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. If you are required to file a return, a negligence penalty or other sanction may be imposed on you if this income is taxable and the IRS determines that it has not been reported.	
RECIPIENT'S name Michael Collins  Street address (including apt. no.) [REDACTED]  City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code [REDACTED]		7 Nonemployee compensation \$ 26500	8 Substitute payments in lieu of dividends or interest \$		
		9 Payer made direct sales of \$5,000 or more of consumer products to a buyer (recipient) for resale <input type="checkbox"/> \$	10 Crop insurance proceeds \$		
		11 \$	12 \$		
Account number (see instructions) \$		13 Excess golden parachute payments \$	14 Gross proceeds paid to an attorney \$		
15a Section 409A deferrals \$	15b Section 409A income \$	16 State tax withheld \$	17 State/Payer's state no. \$	18 State income \$	

Form 1099-MISC






(keep for your records)

[www.irs.gov/form1099misc](http://www.irs.gov/form1099misc)

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service



☐ VOID ☐ CORRECTED

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no. <b>John Lewis for Congress</b> 2015 Wallace Road Atlanta, GA 30331 		1 Rents \$	OMB No. 1545-0115  <b>2015</b> Form 1099-MISC	<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>
PAYER'S federal identification number 		2 Royalties \$	3 Other income \$	
RECIPIENT'S identification number 		4 Federal income tax withheld \$	5 Fishing boat proceeds \$	<b>Copy 1 For State Tax Department</b>
RECIPIENT'S name <b>Michael Collins</b>  Street address (including apt. no.)   City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code 		6 Medical and health care payments \$	7 Nonemployee compensation \$ 27550.00	
Account number (see instructions) 		8 Substitute payments in lieu of dividends or interest \$	9 Payer made direct sales of \$5,000 or more of consumer products to a buyer (recipient) for resale <input type="checkbox"/>	10 Crop insurance proceeds \$
FATCA filing requirement <input type="checkbox"/>		11	12	13 Excess golden parachute payments \$
14 Gross proceeds paid to an attorney \$		15a Section 409A deferrals \$	15b Section 409A income \$	16 State tax withheld \$
17 State/Payer's state no. 		18 State income \$		

Form 1099-MISC

www.irs.gov/form1099misc

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

☐ CORRECTED (if checked)

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.  John Lewis for Congress 2015 Wallace Road Atlanta, GA 30331 [REDACTED]		1 Rents	OMB No. 1545-0115		Miscellaneous Income
		\$	2016		
		2 Royalties			
		\$	Form 1099-MISC		
3 Other income		4 Federal income tax withheld	Copy B For Recipient		
\$		\$			
PAYER'S federal identification number	RECIPIENT'S identification number	5 Fishing boat proceeds	6 Medical and health care payments		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$	\$		
RECIPIENT'S name		7 Nonemployee compensation	8 Substitute payments in lieu of dividends or interest	This is important tax information and is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. If you are required to file a return, a negligence penalty or other sanction may be imposed on you if this income is taxable and the IRS determines that it has not been reported.	
Michael Collins		\$ 27224.00	\$		
Street address (including apt. no.)		9 Payer made direct sales of \$5,000 or more of consumer products to a buyer (recipient) for resale <input type="checkbox"/>	10 Crop insurance proceeds		
[REDACTED]		\$	\$		
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code		11	12		
[REDACTED]					
Account number (see instructions)		FATCA filing requirement <input type="checkbox"/>	13 Excess golden parachute payments	14 Gross proceeds paid to an attorney	
			\$	\$	
15a Section 409A deferrals	15b Section 409A income	16 State tax withheld	17 State/Payer's state no.	18 State income	
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	

Form 1099-MISC

(keep for your records)

[www.irs.gov/form1099misc](http://www.irs.gov/form1099misc)

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

# **EXHIBIT 3**

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**Transcript of Interview of Former Treasurer**

**March 29, 2017**

1 Helen Eisner: Okay. Speaking is Helen Eisner. I'm joined by Paul Solis from the Office of  
2 Congressional Ethics. It is March 29, 2017, and we are joined by Former  
3 Treasurer. Do you prefer Former Treasurer?  
4

5 Former Treasurer: Former Treasurer, yes.  
6

7 Helen Eisner: Former Treasurer, okay. This is review 17-5018. We have given Former  
8 Treasurer a copy of the False Statements Act. He has signed our  
9 acknowledgement form and with that we will go ahead and get started.  
10

11 Former Treasurer: Okay.  
12

13 Helen Eisner: So just some basic background questions. What is your current job?  
14

15 Former Treasurer: I'm Counsel here at Dentons and I left the partnership oh three or four years ago  
16 and spent 20 years working my way up and then about two years working my  
17 way down. Whole lot easier to go down than it is to go up, by the way.  
18

19 Helen Eisner: Sure. Any other current positions?  
20

21 Former Treasurer: Not professionally, no.  
22

23 Helen Eisner: Okay. What about any positions as treasurer or any role in a campaign committee?  
24

25 Former Treasurer: Not at present, no.  
26

27 Helen Eisner: What about previously? What-  
28

29 Former Treasurer: Oh yeah. You're probably talking about the Lewis campaign. Yeah-  
30

31 Helen Eisner: Okay.  
32

1 Former Treasurer: I was treasurer of John Lewis for Congress for several years.  
2  
3 Helen Eisner: Just before getting into that, were there any other campaign committees that you  
4 were treasurer for or involved in?  
5  
6 Former Treasurer: Not treasurer but now I've been in and out. I'm an old political junkie and I've  
7 been in and out of more political campaigns that you can count.  
8  
9 Helen Eisner: Okay.  
10  
11 Former Treasurer: Most of them were honorific and very few had any legal responsibilities.  
12  
13 Helen Eisner: So treasurer position was only for John Lewis for Congress?  
14  
15 Former Treasurer: Yes.  
16  
17 Helen Eisner: Okay. Okay, during what period of time were you treasurer for John Lewis for  
18 Congress?  
19  
20 Former Treasurer: I asked if you know should I check in the records, you said, "No", so just look at  
21 whatever the filings show.  
22  
23 Helen Eisner: I mean is there a sort of approximate sense. We're not looking for dates.  
24  
25 Former Treasurer: I'm going to guess. I'll make it three terms but I'm not sure.  
26  
27 Helen Eisner: Okay. What is your relationship with Congressman John Lewis?  
28  
29 Former Treasurer: We're close personal friends.  
30  
31 Helen Eisner: How often do you communicate with Congressman-

1 Former Treasurer: Not as often as I have in the past. His late spouse Lillian and I were also very  
2 close friends and as you may know she died several years ago.  
3

4 Helen Eisner: How did you come to be the treasurer of the John Lewis for Congress campaign?  
5

6 Former Treasurer: Well, Lillian had been treasurer for a number of years. John's always, as you  
7 know, had problems with irregularities in his campaign. It's kind of an ongoing  
8 thing, which is why I assume we're here and so Gordon Giffin, one of our  
9 partners here. John called Gordon for the firm here to do some legal work. Kind  
10 of straighten his stuff up and they asked me if I would be treasurer and so, and I  
11 agreed to do it.  
12

13 Paul Solis: Was the firm Dentons at that time or was it-  
14

15 Former Treasurer: Oh no. The firm was McKenna, Long and Aldridge at the time. And like I say, I  
16 don't remember the years but it's documented with the FEC.  
17

18 Paul Solis: So the filings at the FEC, your name as treasurer would sort of reflect the time  
19 period?  
20

21 Former Treasurer: Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
22

23 Helen Eisner: I think we have a sense that it was approximately late 2007 early 2008 that you  
24 would have come on as treasurer. Does that seem-  
25

26 Former Treasurer: That sounds about right.  
27

28 Helen Eisner: About right? Okay.  
29

30 Former Treasurer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
31

32 Helen Eisner: What was your compensation for serving in that role as treasurer?  
33

1     Former Treasurer:     None. None, of course.  
2  
3     Helen Eisner:            Okay. Why not? If you could just explain that to us.  
4  
5     Former Treasurer:       Well, he was my friend. I wanted to be sure that, I had an interest being sure that  
6                                    everything was done properly. Now the firm, when we did some legal work that  
7                                    other people in the firm did bill the campaign minimal amounts but my time and  
8                                    whatever was totally, was totally gratis. I didn't receive compensation. But you  
9                                    should see a few invoices from time to time to McKenna, Long & Aldridge that  
10                                   will reflect actual work done. That would have been done by first by a guy  
11                                   named Scott Rafshoon who's still here and also by Jeremy Berry who is still here.  
12  
13    Helen Eisner:            What type of work would they have been performing? Was it work related to  
14                                   treasurer responsibilities or other types of work?  
15  
16    Former Treasurer:       Yes, yeah.  
17  
18    Helen Eisner:            Okay.  
19  
20    Former Treasurer:       And I think we probably represented him before the FEC, not before, but you  
21                                   know, it was on paper, but Jeremy... I'm pretty sure had a couple, a couple of  
22                                   things and for a while, for a while I also in concert with Jeremy would go over  
23                                   the reports and critique the reports and so forth. There was a young, there was a  
24                                   woman, I don't know if she was young or not named Vickie Winpisinger who  
25                                   Michael Collins had identified and I think she did the paperwork. I had no  
26                                   authority to write checks or make any disbursements or anything.  
27  
28    Helen Eisner:            Okay. I sort of want to take that apart a little bit and understand who some of  
29                                   those individuals are and then-  
30  
31    Former Treasurer:       Sure.  
32  
33    Helen Eisner:            But sort of high level first. Talking about the authority that you did have, what  
34                                   were your responsibilities as treasurer, or these other individuals that you were  
35                                   discussing at Dentons?  
36



1     Former Treasurer:     Well that was part of the problem. To be very candid, and I know you'll probably  
2                                 hear about Michael, but Michael Collins was, pretty much controlled everything.  
3                                 You got to understand this about John Lewis. Money means nothing to him. He  
4                                 has no idea probably how much money he has in the bank or what his  
5                                 compensation is or what he owns. He's totally devoid. John is one of those people  
6                                 who really serves because of his strong commitment to public service and a  
7                                 number of other things that go with it. John pretty much turns everything over to  
8                                 Michael, which is why I'm not treasurer anymore. Just to be very candid with you.  
9                                 I didn't have any authority and I chose rather than become involved in any  
10                                 confrontations or problems, I thought it'd be best that I step aside and I did. I  
11                                 don't even remember the year I did. I'm going to say four years ago. That sound  
12                                 about right?

13

14     Helen Eisner:         I think that the date we have for that would be approximately 2015, early 2015?

15

16     Former Treasurer:     Oh I didn't realize it would be that long. Anyway I resigned as treasurer.

17

18     Paul Solis:             Was that after a conversation with Representative Lewis or-

19

20     Former Treasurer:     Well actually I told him that, I wasn't quite forthcoming with him. I told him that  
21                                 you know I was retiring from the firm and then I recommended someone,  
22                                 someone else to do it. I don't think that recommendation was taken but-

23

24     Paul Solis:             Someone in particular that you recommended?

25

26     Former Treasurer:     I recommended Tharon Johnson who is a political consultant and had been a full  
27                                 employee on the staff. Last I heard is that I don't know he was either replaced or  
28                                 Michael is the treasurer. I don't know.

29

30     Paul Solis:             Just to go back a little bit to the origins of your being named treasurer, you said  
31                                 the firm at that time was McKenna, Long and Aldridge-

32

33     Former Treasurer:     Right.

34

35     Paul Solis:             Was asked to do some legal work for the campaign committee, correct?

36

1 Former Treasurer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
2

3 Paul Solis: Who then asked you to take on that role? Was it Representative Lewis himself or  
4 somebody from the firm had asked you to be treasurer?  
5

6 Former Treasurer: Well John mentioned, asked me to do it and I told him I'd be glad to. It was kind  
7 of a conversation in passing, if you know what I mean. It wasn't, we didn't sit  
8 down and have a formal-  
9

10 Paul Solis: Right.  
11

12 Former Treasurer: Formal, or when I think... I ran into him outside the Commerce Club one time he  
13 says something to the effect, "I understand you agree to be my treasurer." I said,  
14 "If you want me to, sure." That was about it.  
15

16 Paul Solis: Okay, thank you.  
17

18 Helen Eisner: So during the period of time that you were officially treasurer, approximately late  
19 2008, to early 2015 and I understand that you know your memory of those dates  
20 might not be exactly correct but sort of that general time frame, what official role  
21 did Michael Collins have for the campaign?  
22

23 Former Treasurer: Michael is everything. Michael controls the Congressman's checkbook. He  
24 controls all the money. He, and I don't say this disrespectfully, but Michael's very  
25 territorial about Mr. Lewis and really tries to and won't and pretty much keeps all  
26 the authority to himself. And, frankly, with no authority to write the checks, to  
27 approve expenditures, to become involved, what's the point of being treasurer if  
28 you've got the legal responsibility for it and dealing with the FEC and you're just  
29 a figurehead? One thing about Mr. Lewis and John, I've known him since the  
30 early '80s, and while he is so strongly committed to his causes, and human rights,  
31 and would lay down on the floor of the House of Representatives, and get  
32 arrested at the South African embassy, he does not like confrontation. He will go  
33 the great, great lengths to avoid any kind of personal confrontation. And so  
34 consequently, Michael has kind of stepped into that responsibility of controlling  
35 the whole show. And as you know, I'm sure, I'm very uncomfortable with the  
36 concept and I really think that there ought to be a prohibition against staff  
37 members receiving compensation from the committee, but again, that's-  
38

1 Paul Solis: The campaign committee?  
2

3 Former Treasurer: Yes. But again, I understand that's been approved and always had deep concerns  
4 about that.  
5

6 Paul Solis: You know you mentioned that you didn't have any authority to write checks or  
7 write disbursements and you had mentioned that absent that authority you had to  
8 question why be treasurer at all?  
9

10 Former Treasurer: Right. Frankly speaking, I knew this day was coming.  
11

12 Paul Solis: Fair enough. With that in mind and also giving us some background about Mr.  
13 Collins' role and his authority there, was there-  
14

15 Former Treasurer: He overcompensated himself a couple of times as you probably know and I did  
16 tell Michael one time that, when he got in trouble that one time, that he could not  
17 pay his legal fees out of the campaign. That's my last ... Think that's the last  
18 recollection. I think my leaving probably coincided with that trouble he got in  
19 that time before.  
20

21 Paul Solis: Given what you told us though, was there some sort of, I don't want to say  
22 confrontation, but was there a testing of your limits as treasurer? Did Michael for  
23 example tell you, "No, even though you're treasurer, you shall not be cutting  
24 checks"?  
25

26 Former Treasurer: It never got to that. That's just ... It never got that far.  
27

28 Paul Solis: So then how did you come to your own personal understanding that you had no  
29 authority to make disbursements and approve check-  
30

31 Former Treasurer: Because he handled all disbursements.  
32

33 Paul Solis: Okay.  
34

1     Former Treasurer:     And if you want-

2

3     Paul Solis:             Did you ever ask to take that authority from him?

4

5     Former Treasurer:     No. No. I didn't want to waste my time and, like I say, Michael was very  
6                                   territorial about it. And I don't think that personally Michael is corrupt or  
7                                   dishonest as much as he is almost a control freak. You know, he controls access  
8                                   to Mr. Lewis. He controls scheduling Mr. Lewis and he is ... Mr. Lewis has  
9                                   become totally dependent on him for, especially in light of Lillian's death. And as  
10                                  you probably know they have a son, he and Lillian adopted a son, John Miles,  
11                                  who is ... And my son is 42, and he and John Miles, when we were in Congress,  
12                                  were good friends and John Miles, as you probably know, had some pretty  
13                                  serious problems over the years, addiction problems, and that's ... We did one  
14                                  time, I will tell you there was a disbursement or two to John Miles from the  
15                                  campaign that we called him on they reimbursed on. But frankly, that's just  
16                                  something that I chose not to ... you know, defray.

17

18    Paul Solis:             Understood.

19

20    Former Treasurer:     And I didn't want to jeopardize my friendship with John Lewis and like I say, I  
21                                   knew the thing was heading for a train wreck. I didn't want to be there.

22

23    Paul Solis:             Understood.

24

25    Helen Eisner:          What was Congressman Lewis' awareness and you've talked about this a little bit  
26                                   as far as him ... I think you said he wanted to be removed from the fiscal aspects  
27                                   of the campaign. But what was his awareness of Mr. Collins' responsibility and  
28                                   the fact that he was seen as the sole authority, as you've described him, for  
29                                   campaign funds?

30

31    Former Treasurer:     He obviously permitted it and I think John's situation is this, is that he's got ...  
32                                   This is not what he's interested in. He's interested in his public service primarily  
33                                   and he is exemplary public servant. In addition to that, he travels a whole lot  
34                                   around the country on behalf of the caucus and on behalf of members both  
35                                   Republican and Democrat, come to their districts for different appearances and  
36                                   reasons. Also he campaigns quite a bit for other candidates. House members, yes,  
37                                   but also he's been ... I think he's helped out on Senate campaigns, maybe some  
38                                   gubernatorial campaigns, for Democrats in some areas, and he is thoroughly  
39                                   dependent on Michael. And Michael, let me say this, Michael has some very

1 strong points. He appears to be, as far as I know, totally loyal to Congressman  
2 Lewis and the few times that we've had disagreements haven't had to do ... He  
3 took the part that this would not be best for Congressman Lewis. I really don't  
4 think Michael's a bad person, I think he just has this blind spot as far as following  
5 the rules and crossing the T's and dotting the I's and so forth.

6

7 Helen Eisner: Okay. And to sort of go into that a little bit further: One of the things that you  
8 mentioned was he overcompensated himself. It would be helpful if you could  
9 explain exactly which incident you're referring to. If there's an example of that.

10

11 Former Treasurer: As you know, he pays himself the maximum House salary with Mr. Lewis's  
12 approval, but you know how that goes. I don't think John's ever signed ... John  
13 has never gotten into the details of any. He's just ... I don't think John has any  
14 knowledge of what his official allowance is, what salaries are. He just does not  
15 bother. Michael is his sole connection as far as I know to any of that. I was a little  
16 bit of a ... I was almost the opposite, I probably was too involved but I wanted to  
17 know how much we were paying so-and-so and what other people were making  
18 and how we were doing as far as ... I'd always like to spend about 90 to 93% of  
19 my official and always have a little bit left over and that kind of thing. So I  
20 followed it pretty closely but I'm not sure if I was the exception or whatever but I  
21 just had a different ... But John by contrast really had no idea. Has no idea in my  
22 opinion of who makes what and who comes on board and that kind of thing.

23

24 Helen Eisner: Okay.

25

26 Paul Solis: Are you saying in the official setting for the official congressional office, not the  
27 campaign committee.

28

29 Former Treasurer: Right. Oh, and the campaign the same way. Of course John hasn't had any  
30 substantial opposition in years. He had a primary. I think the last time I was there,  
31 Michael Johnson ran against him. I tried to ... This was ... You know who  
32 Hamilton Holmes is?

33

34 Helen Eisner: I don't think so.

35

36 Former Treasurer: Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter-Gault were the first African-Americans  
37 to integrate the University of Georgia. They were celebrities in their own right.  
38 Hamilton Holmes is deceased now but he became a very respected physician.  
39 Charlayne Hunter-Gault, as you probably know, is a radio personality for years

1 and years and years. Been in NPR and so forth. Anyway, Michael Johnson was a  
2 son-in-law of Hamilton Holmes and thought that he had a little bit of juice and  
3 ran against John in the primary, got 19% of the vote. That's the last opponent  
4 John has had and I think that was about the last time I was- I remember following  
5 it pretty closely- I mean I think that's the last time I was treasurer. I might've been  
6 treasurer maybe another term but John generally has token or no opposition at all  
7 and being on Ways and Means committee and being who he is, a national figure,  
8 you know the money just pours in. And I think they maybe write a letter once a  
9 cycle, maybe two, and they have a few fundraisers but most of his fundraising is,  
10 people just send a check in and that kind of thing.

11

12 Helen Eisner: So as far as Mr. Collins and the campaign itself and any examples of  
13 overcompensation does anything- as far as the house budget, I think you were  
14 talking about for official allowances you said that he provided himself with the  
15 highest salary possible. As far as his salary from the campaign and the kind of  
16 term "overcompensation"-

17

18 Former Treasurer: As you know there's a limitation on that and a couple of times he went over, I  
19 think that's what he was-

20

21 Helen Eisner: Okay.

22

23 Former Treasurer: That's kind of when I left. And when that happened I just figured it wasn't- I  
24 believe my leaving, even though the wreckage might not show of this, my  
25 leaving was somewhat not contemporaneous but after, I didn't want to leave  
26 while that was still going on, but Michael had his own counsel and I told him that  
27 the campaign could not represent him on that because that was individual  
28 responsibility.

29

30 Helen Eisner: So did he try to have the campaign funds used or authorized for representation?

31

32 Former Treasurer: Well no I won't say that he did, I just wanted to be sure he understood that.

33

34 Helen Eisner: Okay. And with regards-

35

36 Former Treasurer: What year was that? Do you remember?

37

1 Helen Eisner: It was approximately 2011, I think was the period of concern.  
2  
3 Paul Solis: Yeah, good. Okay I think that's right.  
4  
5 Helen Eisner: There was some attention to that I think afterwards.  
6  
7 Former Treasurer: Now I think what he sanctioned-  
8  
9 Helen Eisner: There was an ethics committee report that involved Mr. Collins.  
10  
11 Former Treasurer: Yeah, I think he paid a fine or-?  
12  
13 Helen Eisner: I think there was--  
14  
15 Paul Solis: I don't quite recall the exact, recommendation by the committee on ethics but I do  
16 think there was a resolution to the matter and it was made public.  
17  
18 Helen Eisner: Yes.  
19  
20 Former Treasurer: Oh yes it was public I remember that.  
21  
22 Helen Eisner: So during that--  
23  
24 Former Treasurer: Well that was a precipitating factor that led to my, you know.  
25  
26 Helen Eisner: Okay. And that's helpful to sort of understand the time frame there. As far as that  
27 particular issue- you've talked a little bit about how when it came to any  
28 confrontation, Mr. Collins was the one who sort of would take responsibility.  
29 Was there any type of confrontation with regards to that issue? Would you-  
30  
31 Former Treasurer: No. No. We just pointed it out to him and so forth.

1  
2 Helen Eisner: And-  
3  
4 Paul Solis: And by "we" you mean-?  
5  
6 Former Treasurer: "I."  
7  
8 Paul Solis: Okay. Not the law firm or-  
9  
10 Former Treasurer: Well actually somebody here in the firm told me and I told him.  
11  
12 Paul Solis: Okay.  
13  
14 Former Treasurer: That's the best I recall.  
15  
16 Helen Eisner: And you talked about a disbursement to the Congressman's son. During what  
17 period of time did that occur?  
18  
19 Former Treasurer: You'd have to check the files, I really don't know. I just remember that that was  
20 paid but we told John about that and he paid it back.  
21  
22 Helen Eisner: Okay. And was it Mr. Collins who would have authorized that disbursement?  
23  
24 Former Treasurer: Yeah. All disbursements.  
25  
26 Helen Eisner: All disbursements. You mentioned Vickie, I think, Winpisinger?  
27  
28 Former Treasurer: Winpisinger or something like that.  
29  
30 Helen Eisner: Yes. What about her role? Did she have any authority as far as disbursements?  
31



1     Former Treasurer:     She answered to Michael.  
2  
3     Helen Eisner:         Okay. Could she write checks or access the bank account?  
4  
5     Former Treasurer:     Oh she disbursed everything. Yeah.  
6  
7     Helen Eisner:         But the direction would come from Michael? Is that correct?  
8  
9     Former Treasurer:     Mm-hmm (affirmative).  
10  
11    Paul Solis:             Are you aware of whether she had any authority to make disbursement decisions  
12                                absent Michael's input?  
13  
14    Former Treasurer:     No I'm not aware. She may have or may have not. I just don't know. You'd have  
15                                to talk to her. My dealings with her, conventionally that she understood her  
16                                business well and handled it pretty well but she was not- but she answered to  
17                                Michael. I never met her. I've talked to her, you know had a few pleasant  
18                                conversations on the phone with her, that kind of thing.  
19  
20    Helen Eisner:         What about responsibility for filing FEC reports, quarterly reports-?  
21  
22    Former Treasurer:     Well she filed them. What we did for a years there, we scanned them and  
23                                critiqued them. I'm not sure when the last time was but, I believe the last time  
24                                was when we poured out a couple of those things that I mentioned.  
25  
26    Paul Solis:             And by "we" you mean McKenna, Long & Aldridge?  
27  
28    Former Treasurer:     Yeah.  
29  
30    Helen Eisner:         And where would you- what was the process for receiving the receipts and the  
31                                records that were necessary to put together the reports?  
32

1 Former Treasurer: Essentially Vickie put that report, and would look at the report sometime before  
2 we filed.  
3

4 Helen Eisner: And then ultimately the filing, was that- did Vickie file the reports for the FEC or  
5 was that something that McKenna-?  
6

7 Former Treasurer: Some she did. It might've been- I honestly don't know. I honestly don't know. I  
8 assume Vickie filed them.  
9

10 Helen Eisner: What would Michael's role have been in the reports? Was he involved in that  
11 process?  
12

13 Former Treasurer: Good question ... I don't know.  
14

15 Helen Eisner: Okay.  
16

17 Former Treasurer: I don't know.  
18

19 Helen Eisner: Was there any type of issue you can remember regarding a particular report that  
20 Michael raised or any concerns related to FEC reports?  
21

22 Former Treasurer: No. Not that I can think of.  
23

24 Helen Eisner: Okay.  
25

26 Paul Solis: You may have covered this already a little bit but any disbursements for salaries  
27 for employees of the campaign committee, was that all the decision of Mr.  
28 Collins?  
29

30 Former Treasurer: Oh yeah.  
31

32 Paul Solis: Okay. Who else would've been paid by the committee besides Mr. Collins,  
33 would've it been Vickie?

1

2     Former Treasurer:     Well yeah a couple- oh Vickie was paid by the committee and there were a  
3     couple of consultants that Michael hired in the DC area. I never met them or saw  
4     them but- for fundraising, which, I think I mentioned Michael, I think I did, that  
5     do he really need them, but –

6

7     Paul Solis:             But as far as paid either full-time or part-time employees of the campaign  
8     committee doing campaign work, would've been just Michael and Vickie?

9

10    Former Treasurer:     Well you'd have, to look at the reports. I have no idea.

11

12    Paul Solis:             Okay. I mean independent of the reports do you have any awareness of who that  
13    might be?

14

15    Former Treasurer:     No.

16

17    Helen Eisner:           On the FEC reports for disbursements-

18

19    Former Treasurer:     Actually John though never had much of a campaign to speak of he never had to  
20    hire a lot of people.

21

22    Helen Eisner:           On those FEC reports in the disbursement section there's a category that says  
23    "Purpose" and it's a statement of why was this disbursement made. Sometimes  
24    they're broad categories sometimes they're more specific. To the best of your  
25    recollection who would've been responsible for filling out that portion of the FEC  
26    reports? The purpose section.

27

28    Former Treasurer:     Michael would have supplied the information to Vickie. My recollection is a  
29    couple of times we- again I'd have to ask Jeremy or Scott who, got into the  
30    details of the campaigns but- a couple of times we would request and in the  
31    course of things add something.

32

33    Helen Eisner:           Okay. From 2013 to 2014, just thinking back to that period of time, the  
34    disbursement category on the campaign committee's FEC statements for  
35    payments to Mr. Collins, so disbursements to him, for salary in 2013, they were  
36    listed as "Finance Consulting Fee" and then in 2014 there was a change to